

**Montana Department of Corrections
Population Management Committee**

Department leadership is confident that utilizing a consistent method of information delivery will help decision-makers to better understand how the department provides correctional services to Montana. Population figures are the basis for the department's budget. In an effort to improve how we calculate population figures, the department formed a leadership-level committee on May 26, 2006 designed to help decision makers understand how population numbers affect the department's budget. The following summarizes the first quarterly meeting of this committee:

Present: Members and representatives of the: 1) directors office and department management team; 2) statistics unit; 3) legal unit; and 4) budget bureau. This group is appointed by the director.

Purpose statement for this committee:

Provide a consistent and understandable method of projecting population growth for adult and juvenile offenders. (DRAFT)

- 1) The group will provide a quarterly review of forecasted population numbers.
- 2) If necessary, the group will formulate changes to the population numbers in July and December. Finalized population forecasting numbers at fiscal year end will be used for projections in a legislative year.
- 3) Information Technology Bureau will be the "gatekeeper" for ALL statistical information including population projections. The idea is to provide accurate and consistent projections and statistical information.
- 4) Population projections will reflect operational capacity at each facility or number of beds or slots available in programs such as prerelease centers or probation and parole. Forecast percentages will be calculated to demonstrate growth beyond capacity or adequate number of beds or slots for supervision.
- 5) The committee will also look at the inmate classification vs. inmate types in order to provide consistent statistical data required federal reporting.

In future meetings this committee will discuss topics such as:

- 1) Reviewing the current population growth to determine if and when out of state placement of offenders is necessary.
- 2) Reviewing specific programs such as the MASC facility and future bed needs.
- 3) Incorporating Juvenile population projections.
- 4) Identifying additional committee members.
- 5) Production of a facts sheet as a way to consistently deliver information to decision makers and stakeholders.